

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD



31 PRAYERS
SYNC X | JULY 2019

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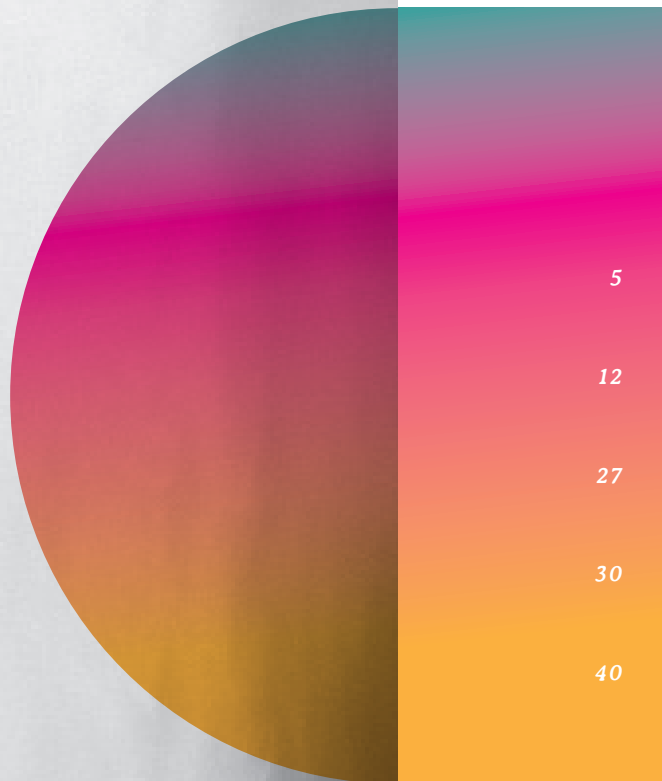


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MORNING, MIDDAY & EVENING PRAYERS

I welcome this day
with gratitude,
as it unfolds
like a gift.

May I approach this day
with the expectation
of finding God in ordinary and unexpected places,
and in each face I encounter.

Of hearing His voice
in the cries of the poor
and the sighs of the weary.

May I remember that
I am a seeker of God's presence,
a dwelling place,
a temple,
a child.

That I was created for loving communion.

With Christ, my treasure and my light.
Holy Spirit, my dear friend.
Father God, my refuge and protector.

Amen.

Take pause
from what I am doing,

To notice

Like my very lungs,
You supply each breath

Whether I think of breathing
or not.

You are always with me
even when I am unaware.

So I break
from what I must do,

to notice

that You are inviting.

And You are with me.

Amen.

As I reflect,
I lift up my day to You.

As a prayer of thanksgiving,
a prayer of confession,
a prayer of love.

Thank you, God
for each tender connection,
with loved ones, with strangers,
with You.

May I continue to spill Your presence,
into the the world around me.

Forgive me, Lord
for ways I detached or distracted,
from injustices, from pain,
from You.

May I graciously accept
the lessons that came
from the mistakes or disappointments of the day.

And look with hope
for promised mercies tomorrow.

I ask for Your peace
and Your presence tonight
as I rest.

Amen.



SEEKING
HIS
FACE

*Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.*

PSALM 105:3-4 (MSG)

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May I have the humility,
to seek You always.
Knowing that
You'll let me find You.

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of the disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'"

LUKE 11:1

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Jesus, You modeled reliance on the Father, so Lord would You
teach me to pray like You.
I want to seek Your face. I want to know Your heart.
Jesus, my Rabbi.
Holy Spirit, my Help.
Father, my Hope.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

MATTHEW 7:7

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May I have enough faith
to ask,
to seek,
to knock.
to trust that You're good on Your promises,
And that You'll make Yourself known to me.

"You, God, are my God,
Earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
 My whole being longs for you,
 In a dry and parched land
 Where there is no water."

PSALM 63:1

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Like the Samaritan woman at the well,
 I approach You with my buckets empty.
 filled frequently with water that runs dry,

I remind my soul again, that it's You
 who makes springs flow in the dry places.
 You, who I thirst for.
 You satisfy my all.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there
 by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was
 wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short
 he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a
 sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him,
 "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house
 today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the
 guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and
 now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated
 anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because
 this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek
 and to save the lost.**"

LUKE 19:1-10

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Jesus, friend of sinners,
 You see those unseen,
 You are home to those who have no houses.
 Your heart searches for the lost and the messy.

May I remember this as I seek You,
 in the faces of those often overlooked,
 in the eyes of those unseen.

May I find You,
 as You have found me.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with **all your heart.**"

JEREMIAH 29:13

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May I have the urgency,
to turn to You with all of my being,

because You don't hide Yourself from me.
You are ready to be found.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone
who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards
those who earnestly seek him.**"

HEBREWS 11:6

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Good Father, You don't withhold Yourself,
Nor do You pressure us with Your love.
Instead, in patience You wait for us to come to You,
And You still turn Your face to us.
You give us the gift of Your presence.
What kind of Love is this?

"Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God."

1 CHRONICLES 22:19

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In peace, I remember
I was created to seek You every day.

"If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above, where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

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Jesus,
born in dirt and straw,
You walked the earth;
God with us.

Jesus,
raised from death and stone,
You reign in Heaven;
God in us.

In the crowd that day there was a woman who for twelve years had been afflicted with hemorrhages. She had spent every penny she had on doctors but not one had been able to help her. She slipped in from behind and touched the edge of Jesus' robe. At that very moment her hemorrhaging stopped. Jesus said, "Who touched me?"

When no one stepped forward, Peter said, "But Master, we've got crowds of people on our hands. Dozens have touched you."

Jesus insisted, "Someone touched me. I felt power discharging from me."

When the woman realized that she couldn't remain hidden, she knelt trembling before him. In front of all the people, she blurted out her story—why she touched him and how at that same moment she was healed.

*Jesus said, "**Daughter, you took a risk trusting me, and now you're healed and whole. Live well, live blessed!**"*

LUKE 8:43-48 (MSG)

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Jesus, our Lord who walked among us,
bless those who reach out to touch
even the edge Your robe,
those who put their trust in You.

Those desperate for Your presence,
and hopeful for Your healing.

Trusting in Your touch.



LISTENING
FOR HIS
VOICE

*My sheep listen to my voice; I **know them**, and they follow me.*

JOHN 10:27 (NIV)

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May I have the peace to still my anxious heart,
the humility to listen for Your voice,
the courage to follow.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

REVELATIONS 3:20

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Jesus, our present Savior.

You are abundant life,
everlasting hope,
yet You still
give us the choice.

May we choose to listen
for that faint whisper,
Your gentle knocking,
even when it's hard to hear,
hard to trust,
and scary to unlock the door.

Because in Your presence there is love.
Your perfect love casts out all fear.

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

MATTHEW 4:4

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Even in the dry and desolate seasons of my life,
when I am wanting,
and wasting,

I will hunger for Your Word,

to be refreshed by Your presence,
and restored by Your voice.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

"They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!"

JOHN 20:11-16 MSG

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Risen King,
Good teacher,
Careful gardener.

I often don't recognize You
even when You're standing near to me.
Especially in the flurry of emotions
or the despair of circumstance.

May I recognize You
when You speak.

When I hear You call my name.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

PROVERBS 19:20

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May I heed the advice and wisdom,
from friends and family You have placed in my life,
knowing that You often speak
through those I love.

And **the Lord came and stood, calling** as at other times,
 "Samuel, Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1 SAMUEL 3:10

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I am here,
 I am listening.
 Speak, Lord,
 Your servant is listening.

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. **But because you say so, I will** let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

LUKE 5:5-6

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May I trust that You love me,
 and desire the best for me
 to obey You
 even when I think I know
 the outcome may end in failure and disappointment.

Because You say so,
 I will.
 Because You say I'm Yours,
 I am.

"And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, **simply embrace** what the Spirit is doing in us. Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. **Those who trust God's action in them** find the that God's Spirit is in them - living and breathing God!"

ROMANS 8:4-5 MSG

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May I choose to listen
To the voice that says,
"Trust me,
I am doing something new
In You."

DRAWING NEAR



"Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"

GALATIANS 4:6

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I run to You,
a child to their dad.

With the anticipation
of an embrace.



"All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me
I will never drive away."

JOHN 6:37

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So often, I believe the lie
 that I must be or should be
 before I can take up Your invitation.

But Your promise is true,
 now and forever.

"Come.
 No tidying up necessary.
 I won't drive you away."

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you
 rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and
 humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is
 easy and my burden is light."

MATTHEW 11:28-30

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Gentle God,
 You did not create me to carry this restless and tiresome yoke of
 religion that I tend to mount on my shoulders.

Humble Christ,
 I come again,
 to learn and to rest,
 to carry Your yoke
 and be near to You.

"And when Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the **curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open."

MATTHEW 27:51

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Jesus, our wounded Lord
in Your last breath
You tore that divide.

From top
to bottom.

Colliding
the sacred and ordinary,
heaven and earth.

King of Kings, humanity.

"Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. **Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.**

That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. **You belong here**, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home."

EPHESIANS 2:19-22 MSG

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May I remember
that though my relationship with God is intimate and personal,
and that the blood of Christ brings me near,

I am a chord in a song of saints,
wholly separate,
beautifully connected.

Singing evermore praise to Him,
our God who is near.

"I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. **My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**"

EZEKIEL 37:26-27

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Holy, righteous, just,
all-powerful,
Creator of Heaven and earth.

You breathed the galaxies,
strung every constellation,
molded each mountain
and filled each ocean.

Yet,

You place Your sanctuary among us,
You stay in our midst
You abide with us.

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings..."

HEBREWS 10:22

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There's no need to perform.

You can come close.

There's no need to hide.

Draw near.

PRAYERS OF BLESSINGS FOR CHILD



CHILD,

may you grow in the assurance that when you draw near to God, God draws near to you. Grow gently in faith and in hope, knowing that He has made a way for you to be close to Him, you must simply ask and receive. As you find a spot in His presence, will others be drawn to the fullness of light, wholeness and joy that comes when His love overflows out of your spirit.



CHILD,

may you come to recognize God's voice as He sings over you, guides you, and journeys with you. He is our Good Shepherd. You won't ever have to be anxious, He knows exactly where He's leading you.

CHILD,

may God deepen your curiosity for Him. May you come to see Him in different and unexpected ways and different and unexpected people, so that you can tell the world what He looks like.





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